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Jordan Times

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جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الراي"

Turkey announces arrest of 1,035

ISTANBUL, April 21 (AP) — The Turkish interior ministry announced today that 1,035 suspected extremists have been arrested in the past 15 days in a crackdown on left-wing groups. There was no decrease, however, in the terrorist violence that has claimed an estimated 3,300 lives since 1975. On Sunday, a policeman was shot and killed by gunmen believed to be leftist terrorists in Diyarbakir, a violence-torn southeastern Turkish province near the Syrian frontier. In the nearby district of Derik, police said, three persons were killed and two others wounded when snipers opened fire on a car. In another incident over the weekend, a technician of the state-run Turkish Radio and Television Network (TRT) was gunned down in an ambush in the province of Agri, near the Soviet frontier. The Turkish parliament approved another two-month extension of martial law in provinces swept by relentless ideological warfare.

Price: Jordan 50 fils; Syria 50 piastres; Lebanon 75 piastres; Saudi Arabia 1 riyal; UAE 1 dirham; Great Britain 25 pence.

co recalls envoy from Syria

April 21 (R) — Morocco is to recall its ambassador to the Syrian Arab Republic in the Western Sahara. A Moroccan foreign spokesman said the Moroccan ambassador to Damascus, Mohammed El-Moroccan, today asked Syria to clarify its position on the Western Sahara. The Polisario established the Democratic Republic (SADR) four years ago. Relations with the Libyan Jamahiriya on Friday signed the SADR at last week's Tripoli summit of Arab leaders. Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) were also reported to have recognised the SADR. Moroccan Foreign Minister Mohamed El-Moroccan said in an interview in the Rabat newspaper tomorrow that Morocco planned to break relations with the SADR last January following an all-aligned conference in Havana.

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AMMAN, TUESDAY APRIL 22, 1980 — JAMADI AL THANI 7, 1400

Regional Briefs

April 21 (R) — Bulgarian President Todor Zhivkov arrived here today for an official three-day visit. He said the two presidents would hold separate meetings and chair joint sessions attended by Bulgarian and Syrian officials. The visit is part of a series of bilateral relations between the two countries which will draw up a timetable for the on of a cultural agreement and sign a protocol for air transport. In a press statement on arrival, Zhivkov reaffirmed his country's unconditional support for the Middle East peace process and its opposition to imperialism, Zionism and reaction. He pledged to "help Syria as much as possible to achieve prosperity and victory."

April 21 (R) — A bomb was thrown at the Istanbul airport late last night smashing its nose and one of its wings. The police said today. The office was not damaged. The police said a single gunshot was also heard in the city last night but again there was no indication of the motive for either.

April 21 (R) — The Syrian Communist Party (SCP) announced today that it had assassinated a party member in the town of Aleppo today. A party spokesman said the member, code-named Abu Salam, was a member of the underground movement. The SCP will not deter the Syrian Communist Party from its progressive struggle and facing capitulationist forces. The spokesman gave no other details about the assassination. The Syrian authorities have blamed the Muslim Brotherhood for a number of subversive activities in various parts of the country.

April 21 (R) — Twenty-three leftwing "political prisoners" from Istanbul's top security Sigmundstadler jail escaped today and fled into the city's bustling bazaar. They said the prisoners had first replaced 23 other suspects, due to be transported to a court, by switch-cups. When the van was stuck in a traffic jam in the city, the political prisoners managed to break out and covered bazaar. Police and martial law troops were surrounded the bazaar but the prisoners had appar-

April 21 (R) — Israeli General Dan Shomron, who led the rescue of hostages from Entebbe in 1976, says it is time to free the American hostages in Lebanon by force. He said in an interview published yesterday by the newspaper "Haaretz" that the situation in Lebanon is in a state of anarchy and that the Israeli commando team led by him in 1976, mostly Israelis, from a hijacked to Entebbe, Uganda, by pro-Palestinian forces.

April 21 (R) — United Arab Emirates (UAE) Oil Minister Ahmed bin Zayed said today that the UAE will visit the U.S. to discuss the future of the official Emirates News Agency (WAM). Oteiba described his trip as fruitful and said the two sides agreed on exchange of technical teams to discuss relations in economic, commercial and petroleum fields. Apart from meeting a number of West German leaders, Dr. Oteiba also met German industrialists for their possible participation in the UAE's industrial development. Dr. Oteiba also met Mr. Schmidt and delivered a message to the UAE president, Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan.

West Germany, April 21 (R) — West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt is to visit Israel in early May, a spokesman for the Christian Social Union (CSU) party said today. But a ministry spokesman refused to comment on the visit. Schmidt is expected to visit Israel in October, was from the Israeli government. Exact dates for the visit had still to be decided, the spokesman said.

April 21 (R) — Japan is studying the possibility of giving Somalia, Kenya and Oman to help bolster their security in Iran and Afghanistan, the foreign ministry said today. But a ministry spokesman refused to comment on the visit. Schmidt is expected to visit Israel in October, was from the Israeli government. Exact dates for the visit had still to be decided, the spokesman said.

Aden's Ismail resigns as president, replaced by Nasser Mohammad

ADEN, April 21 (R) — President Abdul Fattah Ismail of South Yemen has resigned on health grounds and has been replaced by Prime Minister Ali Nasser Mohammad, the official Aden News agency said today.

The agency said Mr. Ismail, 41, has asked the central committee of the South Yemeni Socialist Party to accept his resignation, both as secretary-general of the committee and as chairman of the presidential council.

The committee accepted Mr. Ismail's resignation at a meeting last night because his health prevented him from carrying out his duties as head of the party and the state in the required manner, the agency said.

But in view of Mr. Ismail's standing, the committee appointed him president of the party, the agency added.

The committee appointed Prime Minister Ali Nasser Mohammad, also 41, secretary-general of the committee. It also asked him to act as chairman of the presidential council until the next meeting of the Higher People's Assembly, South Yemen's parliament.

The agency said the committee would continue meeting today under Mr. Nasser Mohammad to discuss economic and party affairs.

Shortly after the resignation announcement, Foreign Minister Salem Saleh Mohammad summoned Arab and foreign ambassadors in Aden and assured them that South Yemen's internal and foreign policies would remain unchanged, the news agency said.

Mr. Ismail and Mr. Nasser Mohammad, both fought in the bloody war against the British which ended in 1967 with the creation of the independent People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.

Mr. Nasser Mohammad was president for some months after the ousting and execution of former President Salem Robaya Ali in June, 1978. Mr. Ismail became president in December of that year.

Although a devout Marxist, Mr. Ismail planned to visit Saudi Arabia in an attempt to improve relations.

Earlier this month, Kuwait's foreign minister, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, disclosed that he was arranging for the foreign ministers of South Yemen and Oman to meet in an attempt to normalise their relations.

South Yemen's support of a rebellion in Oman's southern province of Dhofar marred relations between the two countries. The rebellion was crushed four years ago with the help of Iran.

South Yemen also is pushing for unity with neighbouring North Yemen.

South Yemen's communications minister, Mr. Mahmoud Oshaish, arrived in Sanaa today with a message from Mr. Nasser Mohammad to North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

Mr. Oshaish said his visit was part of regular consultations on eventual unification, the Aden News Agency said.

The Aden News Agency said the ambassadors of East Germany and Bulgaria called on Mr. Nasser Mohammad today to congratulate him on his appointment as secretary-general of the central com-

mittee. South Yemen signed 20-year friendship treaties with both East Germany and the Soviet Union last year. Soviet and Cuban experts train the South Yemeni armed forces and Soviet warships use Aden port, strategically sited near the Red Sea oil route.

Mr. Ismail and Mr. Nasser Mohammad led the movement which overthrew Mr. Robaya Ali, who was later condemned by the cabinet for "individualistic behaviour" and actions which had "profoundly harmed our national progressive regime."

Mr. Nasser Mohammad, a former school teacher who was imprisoned several times when South Yemen was fighting Britain for independence, became defence minister in March 1971 and five months later prime minister as well.

Mr. Ismail was appointed minister for culture, guidance and unity affairs after South Yemen won its independence in 1967. He became secretary-general of the ruling party's central committee in 1969 and kept the post until his resignation last night.

Envoys also left Aden with messages from Mr. Nasser Mohammad to the leaders of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Syria and Lebanon. The contents of the messages were not revealed.

Deputy Foreign Minister Abd Ali Abdul Rahman left for Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Mr. Mohammad Abdul Qawi, chairman of the state-owned "October 14 Printing, Publishing and Advertising Establishment" and a former ambassador to Syria and Lebanon, left for Damascus and Beirut.

Ireland proposes meeting on strengthening UNIFIL

UNITED NATIONS, April 21 (AP) — Spurred by its loss of two Irish U.N. soldiers, Ireland has proposed a meeting in Dublin on strengthening the defence capability of the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). Security Council diplomats said today.

The informants, who preferred not to be identified, said Dr. Waldheim would discuss the issue with delegates of the 10 troop-contributing countries here later in the day.

They told reporters Ireland wanted defence ministers of the troop-contributing countries to take up the question at a meeting in Dublin after it was discussed by foreign ministers of the European Common Market conferring in Luxembourg today and tomorrow.

The U.N. force includes infantry from Fiji, Ghana, Ireland, Nepal, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway and Senegal. Headquarters personnel from Ghana and Ireland — logistic units from France, Italy and Norway, and an engineers company from France.

Dr. Waldheim reported Friday that Maj. Saad Haddad's Lebanese rightist militia had executed two Irish soldiers in the U.N. force captured enroute to a U.N. observation post in the six-mile strip of southern Lebanon his forces hold on the Israeli border.

Begin supporters vow to oust Weizman

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, April 21 (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin's political supporters said today they will seek to oust Defence Minister Ezer Weizman from his post in the Likud Coalition government despite the danger that this could bring down the government.

"We know that some government ministers are using political blackmail to get the prime minister to forget about the views expressed by Mr. Weizman last week, but we are determined to get him to quit," an executive committee member of Mr. Begin's and Mr. Weizman's Herut (Freedom) Party told Reuters.

He said that the party's parliamentary committee would meet later this week to pass a vote of no confidence in Mr. Weizman. "If this does not get him to resign, we will cut off all contact with him until he realises he has no place in our party," the committee member said.

Mr. Begin's aides said that the prime minister was still studying the matter and had not yet decided whether to take any action.

Curfew imposed on West Bank village Israeli soldiers wound three Palestinian Arabs

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, April 21 (Agencies) — Three Palestinian villagers were shot and wounded today when hundreds of demonstrating Arabs attacked an Israeli army patrol in the occupied West Bank of Jordan, military sources said.

The Palestinians, residents of Dir Al Assal village, blocked the busy Jerusalem-Hebron road on Israel's "independence day" and hurled stones at the soldiers, two of whom were slightly hurt, the sources said.

The sources said the soldiers then fired warning shots in the air to disperse the villagers. Three villagers were wounded by the shots, one of them seriously, the sources said. They could not explain how the Palestinians had been hit by shots said to have been fired in the air.

A curfew was imposed on the village and about 20 residents were detained for questioning.

Meanwhile, tens of thousands of fanatic Israelis marched through the occupied West Bank to Jerusalem today to mark the 32nd anniversary of the founding of the Zionist state.

The march, organised by the right-wing Gush Emunim group that spearheads Israel's settlement drive in occupied Arab territory, drew at least 30,000 people, by police estimate, for a seven-mile hike through the hills of the West Bank to occupied Jerusalem.

Prime Minister Menachem Begin, in a radio interview marking the occasion, renewed his call to other Arab states to make peace with Israel.

The Gush Emunim march was intended to show support for more Jewish settlements in the

occupied West Bank and keeping Jerusalem under Israeli occupation.

Many of the marchers carried weapons but the military government reported no incidents along the route.

The march started at the Gush Emunim settlement of Givon in the occupied area and ended at "Ammunition Hill" in Arab East Jerusalem where some of the heaviest fighting took place in the 1967 Middle East war.

Leaders of Gush Emunim demanded that the government authorise the establishment of additional settlements in the occupied territories.

In a statement explaining their motives, Gush Emunim leaders claimed: "Jerusalem is the heart of the land of Israel and the centre of Zionist territorial aspirations."

Among the visitors at President Yitzhak Navon's annual "independence day" reception for the diplomatic corps were Egyptian Ambassador Saad Murrada and Lillian Carter, President Carter's mother.

Palestine was partitioned by a United Nations General Assembly resolution in 1947, and Britain formally ended its 30-year mandatory rule of the territory on May 14, 1948. Israel marks the end of the British mandate period as its "independence day."

One killed, 200 injured

Fundamentalists fight to oust leftists from Tehran University

TEHRAN, April 21 (R) — At least one man was stabbed to death and more than 200 people were injured in violent clashes at Tehran University today when Islamic fundamentalists fought to oust leftists from the campus.

Hospital sources said at least one man had died and reported that other people had been admitted with bullet wounds.

Students loyal to the People's Fedayeen guerrilla group held out at the university despite a day-long onslaught by a stone-

throwing crowd.

Revolutionary Guards at the campus gates fired volleys of automatic rifle fire into the air and launched tear gas grenades into the campus grounds.

Following two days of tension, the fundamentalists, mostly non-students backing an Islamic student grouping, launched their first attack soon after midday but were repelled after an hour of battles with about 5,000 opponents.

A few hours later they resumed the offensive. As dusk fell the sound of gunfire from guards shooting in the air cracked across the city and ambulances with sirens wailing ferried the injured to hospitals.

The other major student grouping, the radical Islamic Mujahedin, announced last night it would obey the Revolutionary Council's order to withdraw from the campus.

The Fedayeen tonight occupied an entire street running along the west side of the university where its heavily guarded headquarters is situated.

President Abol Hassan Bani-Sadr issued a fruitless appeal through the state radio during the day for the crowds to disperse. He also insisted that political groups leave university premises by the end of today.

Today's fighting in Tehran was the latest in a series of riots at universities and colleges throughout Iran following the Revolutionary

Council's order to pull out. Well over 1,000 people have been reported injured over the weekend.

President Bani-Sadr in a radio and television address tonight, said: "Those people who think by creating chaos I will resign, will be disappointed for ever... Political groups must know that no group has the power to misuse the chaos and take over power."

Meanwhile, Kurdish sources said shooting between army troops and Kurdish guerrillas went into a fourth day today in the Kurdish town of Saqqez after the army shelled the town overnight.

A spokesman for the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) said by telephone from Saqqez that the shelling lasted for 12 hours after the commander of the local garrison advised people to leave the town to avoid the bombardment.

He said more than a dozen houses had been hit and about 15 people had been buried under wreckage.

In the Kurdistan capital of Sanandaj, further south, the army urged townspeople to leave houses around areas where military personnel were stationed to avoid attack by Kurdish guerrillas, state radio reported.

The army statement said that "mercenaries of imperialism" were shooting at troops stationed at the officers' club, the radio and television station and the airport, and planned to massacre them.

Mother stays 45 minutes with hostage son in Iran

TEHRAN, April 21 (R) — Mrs. Barbara Timm spent 45 minutes talking and holding hands with her hostage son Kevin Hermening at the occupied U.S. embassy here today and said afterwards he seemed in excellent physical and mental health.

Mrs. Timm told a press conference tonight her 20-year-old son, a marine sergeant at the embassy "was surprised and overjoyed that I had travelled across the globe to be with him. In those 45 minutes, we never separated hands."

She was the first relative to be allowed to visit one of the hostages, who have seen only visiting clergymen, Iranian officials and doctors since militant students took them captive last Nov. 4.

Mrs. Timm said they spent most of the time exchanging news about Kevin's family, sports and conditions in the embassy.

She spent some six hours in the compound and a student spokesman said later she had spent about one hour with her son.

Mrs. Timm and her husband Kenneth, Sergeant Hermening's stepfather arrived in Tehran last Saturday, defying a ban by President Carter on Americans travelling to Iran.

forming a new political grouping or by fighting to change the party and government line from the inside.

Both he and the prime minister may be waiting to hear the results of national conferences to be held by the Liberals and the Democratic Front in the next few weeks. Leaders of the two parties have said that important fundamental issues are to be discussed, including their continued cooperation with Mr. Begin.

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to took part in the massive demon- embassy. At left are effigies which have been hung stration which put hundreds of thousands of in the trees after they were used during the demon- stration which put hundreds of thousands of Cubans in the streets. (AP wirephoto)

Jordan Times

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History congress takes up Jerusalem

By Salwa Taher
and Norah Burger
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN, April 21 -- Did Jerusalem have a special status for the Arabs throughout its history? Have western Christians confused the earthly and heavenly cities of Jerusalem?

These were two of the questions discussed today and yesterday by over 100 scholars at the Third International Congress of the History of Bilad Al Sham (Greater Syria). The five-day congress convening at the University of Jordan in cooperation with Yarmouk University is focusing on Palestine.

In the special committee on Jerusalem, Dr. Afif Abdul Rahman, of Yarmouk University, stated that Jerusalem enjoyed a special position under Arab rule, despite the fact that it was never a capital of the Arab world. The latter reservation raised many objections from participants, who cited it as a cliché used by Zionist propagandists to weaken Arab claims to the Holy City.

"A city does not have to be a political capital in order to gain importance or significance for a nation. The role of Arab scholars is not to pick up foreign misconceptions and apologise for them," objected Dr. Mahmoud Zayed from the American University of Beirut, "but to positively underline the status of Jerusalem under Arab rule". Both his and Dr. Sa'id Ashour's paper testified to the religious and political importance of Jerusalem under Mamluk rule.

In the committee on Palestinian history, chaired by Dr. Ihsan Abbas, head of the Centre for Arab and Middle East Studies at AUB, the subject was raised again by a West German orientalist, Dr. Lutz Richter-Bernburg. In his interpretation of one Arabic source of the history of the Crusades -- Imad al-Din al-Isfahani -- he said that the importance of Jerusalem was built up at the time of the crusades, in order to use the city as a focus for Arab resistance.

Dr. Abdul Aziz al Duri, a pioneer and authority in Islamic economic and political history

who is former president of the University of Baghdad, and currently a professor at the University of Jordan, disagreed with Dr. Lutz. "Research shows that the city was significant to the Muslims from the first century of the Hijra (Islamic era). Caliph Umar Ibn Al Khattab insisted on its holiness and sanctity from the time of the conquest. It was part of the duty of all Muslim caliphs to protect and preserve the holy city and the holy places. The *Juda'il* or virtues of Jerusalem were circulated widely in the third century of Islam. It was referred to as 'the place of the descent of revelation, and the city where Christ, returning on the Day of Judgment, is expected to appear'."

Arabic books written during the crusades, therefore, did not present Jerusalem in a new light, concluded Dr. Duri. They simply collected, embodied and emphasised feelings and ideas that had been present all along.

Christian feelings for Jerusalem were analysed by Dr. George Atiyeh, from the Library of Congress. The concept of Jerusalem in Christian medieval thought, he said, has come to mean:

-- The earthly city where Christ suffered and died. Because of its failure to recognise Messianic salvation through Jesus Christ, the earthly city has been rejected in favour of:

-- Heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God, and which may be established in the hearts of men.

-- New Jerusalem, which is an allegorical reference to the bliss of the redeemed community in the presence of God.

Quoting a famous Christian work on the crusades, Dr. Atiyeh read: "If there was an element of collective hysteria behind the phenomenon of the crusades, it was provoked by an involuntary confusion between the elements of time and eternity, between the earthly and the heavenly Jerusalem. By conquering Jerusalem, the crusaders believed they were in heaven. This confusion between earthly and heavenly Jerusalem remained throughout the crusades."

Two papers on Greek history in Palestine were also read. One was by Dr. Speros Vryonis, from the University of California, dealing with the "History of the Greek Patriarchate of Jerusalem" which tackled the investigation of historical sources and the problems of methodology.

Dr. P.J. Vatikiotis, from the University of London, then aroused lively exchanges when he presented his paper, "A Personal Memoire and Recollection". Dr. Vatikiotis is a descendant of Greek expatriates from Palestine. His was a lively account of a small minority who had lived and, in his terms, been "integrated but not assimilated" in the country and who had to leave it at the end of the British mandate when Israel was created.

The evening session ended eventually with a talk given by Mr. Sulaiman Moussa, from the Ministry of Culture and Youth, on Sharif Hussein's stand on the Balfour Declaration. Sharif Hussein was, as were more Arabs than first aware of the magnitude of the Zionist threat to the area, said Mr. Moussa. He was therefore willing to give refuge to small numbers of Jews in Palestine, but he was adamant in refusing them an independent Jewish state. He refused to accept the British mandate -- and ultimately lost his throne -- because it implied an acceptance of the Balfour Declaration.

Participants voiced strong doubts and objections about Arab lack of political awareness at the time. A previous paper -- given by Dr. Suhaila Al Rimawi from the University of Jordan -- had listed leading Arab thinkers who had warned against the Zionist threat: Al Zahrawi, Al Qasimi, Al Shuhabi, Al Arisi, etc.

Others deplored the fact that the paper was based on British documents. "We have an immeasurable wealth of untapped documents in Muhavi Al Din Al Khutbi," said Dr. Rimawi, "and these priceless historical evidences should not be overlooked."

"In addition, we should wonder about missing documents and their implication for historical truth," added Dr. Mahmoud

Zayed. Another topic of discussion today was the Arab image in the West. Dr. Sari Nasser, a University of Jordan sociologist, presented a paper that attributed this negative image to references to Arabs as "tent-dwellers" and as "lurking" presences in the Old Testament as well as the western heritage of the crusades. One western participant said later he found Dr. Nasser's outlook a detrimental one that boded poorly for future relations between the west and the Arabs.

In a scholarly paper given by Dr. 'Eid Dahiyat, also of the University of Jordan, the portrait of the Philistines in a play by John Milton was shown as sticking closely to the unflattering image presented in the Old Testament but making small deviations that projected the Philistines in a better light. In discussion, agreement was reached that the Old Testament has played a strong role in forging the Western conception of the Palestine, particularly among the more biblically-minded Protestants. There was consensus, however, that westerners of today generally do not relate the Philistines of the Old Testament, or the negative implications of the word "philistine" with the Palestinians of today.

In an interesting and original work, Dr. Mohammad Ibrahim traced the connections between Zionism and nationalism and the revival of Hebrew -- which predated the movement -- as a language of the Jews. He gave evidence that the Zionists used their attempt to revive Hebrew as an argument to conceal their political aims even before the British mandate as, for example, in rejecting the establishment of a bilingual agricultural school for born Jewish and Arab students.

Yesterday, His Highness Crown Prince Hassan met with participants in the congress at the Royal Palace and briefed them on Israeli settlements in the occupied territories. Today, they toured the Citadel and visited the archaeological museum there. Her Highness Princess Aliya attended some of today's discussions.

U.S. Senate candidate talks with Qasem h on Middle East issi

AMMAN, April 21 (R) -- Mr. James Eagan, the Republican opposition candidate to Senator Jacob Javits for the U.S. Senate seat from New York, has discussed here with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Marwan Al Qasem bilateral Jordanian-American relations and the question of establishing an independent Palestinian state.

A press release issued yesterday by Mr. Eagan said that Mr. Eagan's talks with Mr. Qasem also covered the issue of the effect of United States-Israeli relations on Arab nations.

According to the press release Mr. Qasem told him that the United States should not deal with the Middle East on terms of oil or strategic necessity, but rather on the principles on which the United States was founded.

"The net result of the United States' current unilateral Middle East policy is throwing the Arab

World into trouble. It is a situation, which give rise to ideologies which we do not support."

According to the press release Mr. Eagan, who is of Irish descent, said he was of the opinion that the United States should even-handed in its security in the area, to initiate efforts to guarantee sovereignty of every state region, particularly for the Middle East.

Mr. Eagan also visited a refugee camp near Amman. He said on the occasion, "The conditions of those people have been displaced in their homeland for reasons of hostility, it is worse than the so-called slum housing South Bronx and Brownsville of New York."

Mr. Eagan, who arrived Friday, is expected to visit Lebanon, Iraq and Iran, going back to the U.S.

ILO chief takes action Israeli labour law char

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN, April 21 -- Assertive action is being taken on an international level to influence Israeli authorities to abolish their amendment to the Jordanian labour law as it applies in the occupied West Bank, a spokesman for the Ministry of Labour told the Jordan Times today.

The ministry has been informed that Mr. Francis Blanchard, the director general of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), is "taking action," including raising the issue with "some parties in Geneva and pressing for clarification on the matter," the spokesman said.

Mr. Blanchard considers Israel's move "a very serious trade union and labour problem," the spokesman said, but an equally important aspect is its illegality and effect on international law.

The ILO's concern about the seriousness of the Israeli action followed a strong condemnation of the move last week by Labour Minister Omar Nabulsi.

Dr. Nabulsi told a press conference last week that the amendment was a bid to deprive Arabs, under occupation, of the ability to elect leaders who oppose Israel's policies and who are aware of the dangers of such policies, even if such people are running for a non-political office.

Next week the board of directors of the Arab Labour Organisation is likely to approve a resolu-

tion to be submitted at ILO meeting, calling for a stop taking any action regard and abolish the amendment," the spokesman said.

Anani annou supply contri with Far East countries

AMMAN, April 21 (JT) Ministry of Supply has contracts to purchase goods needed by the proposed market and the Civil Service Corporation, Mr. Supply Jawad Anani said today.

Speaking upon return from a two-week tour of Korea, Hong Kong and C Anani said that among the placed with these countries some for items needed for children, such as clothing, which will be for reasonable prices. China, he said, he visited national fair in Canton acquainted himself with the case system of supplying the consumer corporation. During the visit, Dr. Anani talks with government officials, cooperation with Jordan matters, and explored the possibility of Chinese and participation in joint ventures in Jordan.

Time marches on

MANY OF our readers will probably by now have had time to digest the cover story in last week's issue of TIME magazine on "The Palestinians: Key to a Middle East peace."

All things considered, we would applaud the present and perceptive (if somewhat superficial) TIME coverage -- even if it is 32 years too late. We found it on the whole to be a balanced report free of either the blind prejudice or deliberate misinformation which characterises so much American media coverage of the Middle East in general and the Arab-Zionist conflict in particular. For an American mass circulation magazine to demolish at a stroke so many misconceptions about an entire people (even if, at the same time, running the risk of creating new ones), and to destroy quite unequivocally the cliché arguments against a Palestinian state (at a time when the American president is busy propagating those same arguments) is no mean accomplishment.

The article was instructive, also, in denoting the almost startling shifts in American attitudes -- of which it itself is an example -- towards the Palestinians. If thirty per cent of the Americans questioned in a public opinion poll which the article quoted still identify the Palestinians primarily as "terrorists", that means, at the same time, that seventy per cent of Americans do not so identify them. It depends on whether you think the glass is half empty or half full. As we say, there is a risk involved in replacing the American people's perceptions of the Palestinians as either refugees or "terrorists" with an equally misleading impression that they are all either poets or multimillionaires. But just getting them to perceive them as people is an accomplishment (and TIME magazine is influential in shaping such popular perceptions).

Times are indeed changing, it seems, where public opinion in the West is concerned. Another not insignificant indication was the election in London last weekend of a known moderate, Mr. Edgar Bronfman, as president of the World Jewish Congress, replacing an ageing Zionist warhorse, Mr. Philip Klutznick, who at the moment is serving as the United States secretary of commerce. Mr. Bronfman, according to the London Times, "is known to hold 'doveish' views on Israeli territorial issues" and is a critic of the tottering Begin regime.

These are small steps forward, to be sure, in shaping new Western perceptions of Zionism. The fact that we may resent the fact that developments in our area, where our own daily lives and national aspirations are concerned, are still so dependent on such attitudinal trends and shifts elsewhere should not prevent us from taking an appreciative note of those shifts and trends when they do occur.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

AL RAY: The statement made by Mr. Shimon Perez on Sunday announcing the outline of his political programme makes it clear that the fall of Menachem Begin and the succeeding rise of Mr. Perez will not change a thing with respect to our national cause. Nothing more will be achieved than has been before during the successive changes in the governments of the Zionist enemy.

In his programme, Mr. Perez put forward his settlement policy as completely contradicting with that of Mr. Begin and consequently as an indicator of the marginal flexibility which distinguishes him from Mr. Begin and, therefore, qualifies him to play the role of peace maker. In fact, there is no essential difference between the policies of the two men on the settlement issue. If Mr. Begin sees it as the Jews' right to settle in all the "Land of Israel," Mr. Perez excludes from this only areas inhabited by Arabs.

The two men's positions on Jerusalem are identical. They both see the city as the eternal, indivisible capital of the Zionist entity, and hold that this is not negotiable with any party, under any circumstances.

The satisfaction and optimism with which some parties are trying to receive the use of Mr. Perez means they have fallen into the trap set by the Camp David parties in another effort to get them deal through.

AL DESTOUR: The new Israeli political manoeuvre is basically not more than an attempt to rescue the autonomy negotiations, which have not achieved any significant results. If Mr. Perez's blatant overtures are an attempt to topple Mr. Begin's government and approach the U.S. administration as the "knight of peace" of the second phase of the Camp David accords, this talk may indeed benefit Washington by giving it more cards with which to play, but this will by no means deceive any sane person.

Anyone who speaks about peace ought to know that the path to a just peace is very clear. The foundations for such a peace are Palestinian self-determination, Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territories and the establishment of the Palestinian entity in Palestine.

The Zionist proposals, whether they come from the ruling party or the opposition, are no more than ashes thrown in the eyes with the purpose of carrying out the Zionist plan, which aims at Judaizing Arab land and depopulating Palestine of its legitimate owners. Both Mr. Begin and Mr. Perez have their roles to play in this malicious strategy.

WHAT'S GOING ON

Sculpture Exhibition

The Jordan National Gallery presents an exhibition of sculpture by Samer Tabba. The gallery is open daily except on Tuesdays.

Stamps Exhibition

The French Cultural Centre, in cooperation with the Ministry of Telecommunications, presents an exhibition of Jordanian and French stamps. The official opening is at 6:00 p.m.

British Film

The British Council presents a film by Alan Bridges entitled "The Hiring" starring Robert Shaw, Sarah Miles, Peter Egan and Elizabeth Sellars. The film starts at 6:00 p.m.

German Film

The Goethe Institute presents a film by R.W. Fassbinder entitled "Haendler der Vier Jahreszeiten" starring Irm Hermann, Hanna Schygulla and Klaus Lowitsch. The film starts at 8:00 p.m.

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Local News Briefs

AMMAN, April 21 (JNA) -- Jordan and Iraq have reached a technical cooperation agreement which provides for the exchange of experts and university professors and for seminars on promoting social development. Minister of Social Development In'am Mufti said today. Speaking upon returning from Baghdad at the end of a five-day visit, Mrs. Mufti said the agreement, reached in talks with Iraqi officials, also provides for cooperation in vocational training, social security and labour affairs. The terms of an Iraqi loan to Jordan's Social Security Corporation were worked out during the visit, Mrs. Mufti said. She added that a delegation of Iraqi experts will visit Jordan soon to help experts from the Ministry of Social Development in developing the Allan centre for social development.

BAGHDAD, April 21 (JNA) -- Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Nsour met in Baghdad today with the Iraqi Trade Minister, Mr. Hassan Ali. Jordanian-Iraqi trade and economic relations were discussed during the meeting. Mr. Nsour is on a visit to Iraq, to last several days.

AMMAN, April 21 (JNA) -- A delegation from Pakistan's war academy led by Brig. Bushir Ahmad met today with the Commander-in-chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces, Lt.-Gen. Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker. The delegation was briefed on the growth of Jordan's army in the presence of senior army officers. The delegation, which arrived in Amman last night and will be here for several days, will be taken on a tour of a number of military positions in Jordan.

AMMAN, April 21 (JNA) -- Soviet Deputy Ministry of Higher and Secondary Specialised Education Nikolai Yegorov arrived in Amman today for an eight-day visit to Jordan. The Soviet official, accompanied by a delegation of several others, will hold talks with officials at the Ministry of Education on promoting cultural and educational relations between Jordan and the Soviet Union.

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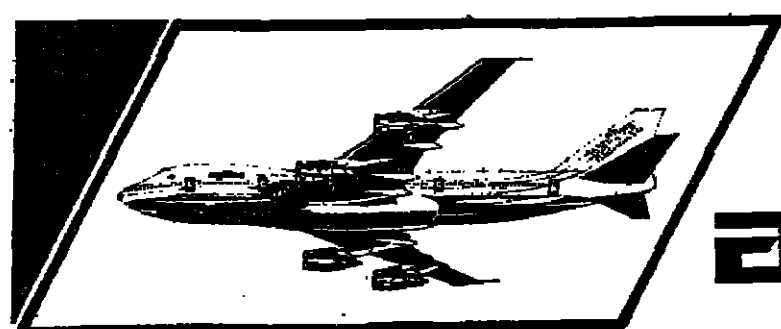
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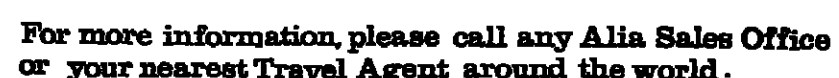
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China's oil deposits believed at 100 b. barrels

HONG KONG, April 21 (R) -- Oil exploration in southeast Asia generally was boosted by the upsurge in world oil prices in the past seven years. And with potentially vast offshore deposits from Bohai Bay in the east to the Gulf of Tonkin in the south, as well as in often largely unexplored onshore areas, China could by the end of this decade overtake Indonesia as the region's biggest oil exporter.

Geologists and oil experts believe China's onshore and offshore oil areas may hold in the region of 100 billion barrels of recoverable and potential reserves.

One oil analyst said China's exploration effort so far has only scratched the surface and this figure was becoming increasingly conservative, while estimates of how much of those reserves are

actually recoverable are moving towards 50 per cent.

Western involvement offshore China is needed to provide capital, technology and expertise, and the companies involved in the seismic surveys clearly hope to take part in exploration and development, if the terms are right.

Broad agreement has already been reached between China and the Japan National Oil Co. (JNOC) which would invest around an estimated \$700 million development in return for 42.5 per cent of oil output for 15 years.

Companies involved in surveying in other areas include Mobil, Exxon, Texaco/Chevron, Phillips, British Petroleum, ELF/Total, the Anglo-Dutch Shell Group, Amoco, ENI of Italy, Union Oil and Atlantic Richfield.

It was reported last December that China expected to call tenders, in the second half of this year, for offshore exploration and development in one-third of the areas under seismic survey.

In Peking, diplomatic sources said that France's ELF and Total were expected to sign an agreement soon for exploratory drilling just south of the Shandong peninsula in the Yellow Sea.

Senior industry executives here, however, said they did not expect firm agreements for the other areas to be signed before the first quarter of 1981, and industry sources said by Western companies' standards the Japanese deal seemed rather generous to the Chinese.

Exploratory drilling could begin within three months of deals being

finalised, the industry sources said. This, however, will not mean an early oil bonanza, with most industry officials, and analysts seeing no great exports -- at present small volumes go to Japan -- before 1985 at the earliest.

China's existing onshore fields showed only a marginal increase in output last year to just over two million barrels a day and, despite energy saving efforts, domestic demand is likely to rise especially for an expanding petrochemical industry.

A limiting factor offshore might be a world shortage of drilling rigs. China is believed in the oil industry to have acquired as many as 20 and one source said it may be building its own as well as having others on order from abroad.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON, April 21 (R) -- Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at the close of trading on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets today.

One sterling	2.2330/40
One U.S. dollar	1.1810/13
	1.8500/10
	2.0325/40
	1.7265/85
	29.73/76
	4.3015/40
	868.00/50
	250.20/30
	4.3380/95
	5.0170/0200
	5.7650/75
One ounce of gold	491.00-495.00

U.S. dollar	
Canadian dollar	
West German marks	
Dutch guilders	
Swiss francs	
Belgian francs	
French francs	
Italian lire	
Japanese yen	
Swedish crowns	
Norwegian crowns	
Danish crowns	
U.S. dollars	

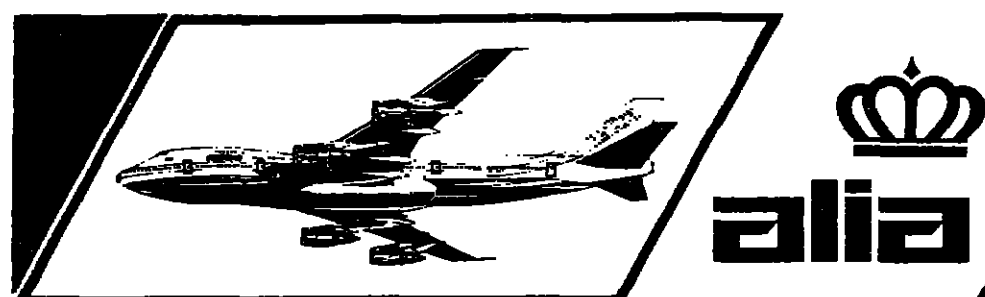
LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON, April 21 (R) -- Government bonds moved high while gold shares and other equities were mixed, dealers said. The 1500 the FT index was up 0.2 at 442.9.

Gains in government bonds stretched to 5/8 point. Dealers noted relatively strong demand on hopes that international interest rates have peaked. The exchequer 3 per cent 1984 special 'a' stock was exhausted in early trading. Sharp gains in Lasso and Ultramar were features of quiet trading in equities while U.S. and Canadian stocks closed lower.

Lasso and Ultramar both rose 18p, but BP and Shell lost 1 and 4p respectively. Barclays and Natwest gained 3p apiece while Metal Box, Fisons and GKN all put on 2p. Bowater, Racal and GEC saw falls of 3p while Tube Investments shed 2p.

Mixed insurances had Royal up 5p, but Commerical Union and CT Bowring were both a penny lower.



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Over Tokyo's refusal to meet price demand Iran cuts off oil to Japan

TOKYO, April 21 (Agencies) — Iran's demand for higher prices, a today suspended oil shipments to Japan because of its refusal to meet said.

A spokesman for Mitsubishi Corporation said it had been notified that the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) had refused to permit loading of tankers bound for Japan, which gets ten per cent of its oil imports from Iran.

It was the first sign that Iran would live up to its threat to cut off oil supplies to Japan in retaliation for Japanese refusal to pay \$2.50 a barrel more for Iranian oil — a refusal widely interpreted as support for Washington in its bid to gain allied backing for sanctions against Tehran in the hostage dilemma.

Japanese Government officials declined comment and Mitsubishi officials said they were not sure whether the suspension was temporary or permanent as they had yet to receive official notice from Tehran.

"It may be a bargaining ploy by the Iranians," a trading company official said in referring to Iran's dispute with Japan and British Petroleum and the Shell group over obtaining \$35 a barrel for its oil, far higher than prevailing world oil prices.

Iranian Oil Minister Ali Akbar Moinefar warned Japan at the weekend that refusal to accept Iranian terms would lead to a sus-

pension of shipments.

Industry sources said Iran cut off Japan at midnight local time as three Japanese tankers were standing by to pick up shipments.

Japan buys from Iran 520,000 barrels of its 5.4 million barrel daily imported oil supply and is Iran's largest single customer. It has also replaced the United States as Iran's main trading partner following last year's Iranian revolution.

Under instructions from Japan's Ministry of International Trade and Industry, six major Japanese trading firms stood firm in the face of Iranian threats of an oil cutoff, winning praise from the White House which viewed the action as a major victory for an allied economic front against Iran.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Masayoshi Ito told reporters earlier today that Japan's position had nothing directly to do with support for Washington's sanctions policy, but that it could not be helped if others interpreted it as such.

Mr. Ito also said that Japan would ask for pressure by Washington on U.S.-based international oil companies to divert oil to Japanese buyers.

The government will consider fresh conservation efforts to cope

with any shortage and draw on the nation's oil stockpile, which now totals about 95 days' supply, he said.

Prime Minister Masayoshi Ohira assured U.S. Ambassador Mike Mansfield today that Japan was prepared to make some sacrifices to end the hostage crisis. But he called on Washington to exercise continued restraint.

Japanese Foreign Minister Saburo Okita is in Luxembourg to consult Common Market foreign ministers on the Iranian crisis. This is part of Japan's policy of coordinating its moves with its major Western European allies. The EEC ministers are meeting in Luxembourg today and tomorrow to fashion a joint policy on the U.S. request for support of its sanctions.

In Tokyo, oil industry sources said the flow of Iranian oil would continue for at least several more weeks as tankers at sea returned to Japan and the oil was refined at local plants.

They said that tankers bound for Iran would be ordered to slow down for possible diversion to other Middle Eastern ports or possibly to Caribbean, European or Asian "spot" crude markets.

Japanese companies, which already account for an estimated 40 per cent of the world's 700,000 barrel-a-day "spot" crude oil market, are likely to step up their purchases soon to cover the loss from Iran, the sources said.

The Iranian Government today warned West Germany that it was risking an oil cutoff if it joined the United States in imposing trade sanctions.

In a statement by its embassy in Bonn, the Tehran regime said a decision to join in sanctions would have "long-term consequences for German-Iranian economic relations."

"If the relationship of trust is disturbed once, the trade relations will also be disturbed in the future and Iran will reach understandings with other trading partners," the statement said.

West Germany imports between ten and 15 per cent of its petroleum from Iran. Economics Minister Otto Lambsdorff has warned that a cutoff of Iranian oil would strain the economy but would not result in an immediate crisis.

On eve of Pennsylvania primary

Baker endorses Reagan

PHILADELPHIA, April 21 (Agencies) — Republican George Bush's hopes of beating front-runner Mr. Ronald Reagan in tomorrow's Pennsylvania presidential primary suffered a severe blow when Senate Republican Leader Howard Baker, who has already dropped out of the race, announced that he was supporting Mr. Reagan for the presidency.

Mr. Baker, who withdrew after the first three primaries, endorsed Mr. Reagan last night. "On paper, the numbers simply say that the time has come to rally around the almost certain nominee of the party," he said.

The 1980 U.S. presidential nomination race reaches the halfway mark tomorrow with two underdogs, Senator Edward Kennedy and Mr. Bush, struggling to avoid elimination.

The primary election tests this time will be in the big industrial state of Pennsylvania, where Senator Kennedy appears to have a fair chance of beating President Carter.

Senator Kennedy appears to have a fair chance of beating President Carter.

Mr. Carter and former California governor Reagan are so far ahead in the race that their two rivals must win every remaining primary.

For that reason, public attention has already started to shift away from the primaries to the prospective election battle between President Carter and Mr. Reagan.

Opinion polls have begun to reflect widespread public discontent with that choice and growing interest in the prospect that Liberal Republican Congressman John Anderson of Illinois might run as an independent candidate.

Mr. Anderson, all but eliminated from the mainstream Republican race, plans to announce his decision in a few days.

For the Democrats, Pennsylvania takes the race past the halfway mark in the selection of nominating convention delegates.

With 185 at stake in Penn-

sylvania and 77 in a Missouri party caucus the same day, about 1,800 of the 3,331 Democratic delegates will have been decided.

By unofficial count, President Carter so far has 975 of the 1,666 needed to win the nomination. He has won ten of 13 primaries. Senator Kennedy has 480 delegates.

President Carter's own pollster rates Mr. Kennedy a slight favourite to win Pennsylvania.

The state is ideal for a candidate of the Massachusetts Senator's liberal appeal. It has a large and politically powerful trade union sector, a diverse ethnic minority population and a relatively high unemployment rate.

Political analysts believe growing discontent with inflation and the Iran hostage crisis would hurt Mr. Carter in Pennsylvania.

Zimbabwe alters budget to help poor

SALISBURY, April 21 (R) — Zimbabwe's new government yesterday announced a mini-budget aimed at helping the poor in its first major political move since independence from Britain three days ago.

Sales tax, a burden on many of the country's seven million blacks, was cut from 15 to ten per cent on many items.

Luxuries such as spirits consumed mainly by the white minority went up by around 35 per cent. Finance Minister Enos Nkala said.

A wartime income tax surcharge, due to be reduced from ten to five per cent, was retained at ten per cent.

Tobacco and beer prices rose by around ten per cent to help offset revenue lost from the cut in sales tax, the minister announced in a statement.

Sales tax would be abolished altogether on some basic commodities including margarine, cooking oil, sugar and tea — staples of the African diet.

The announcement was made as whites complained of a shift in government information policy

since guerrilla leader Robert Mugabe took power as first prime minister of the new nation.

White television viewers telephoned the state-run Zimbabwe television service over the weekend complaining that programmes had assumed an anti-white bias, television sources said.

At least three people have been killed in apparent factional violence since the independence celebrations.

Crowds of Mr. Mugabe's supporters have stoned the homes of his opponents, and on independence night two of his followers were killed in a grenade attack.

A man was beaten to death Saturday when more than 150 of Mr. Mugabe's followers attacked

a party in a suburban Salisbury home, police said.

Seven members of Mr. Mugabe's ZANU-PF (Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front) were arrested after they and about 200 others attacked a small gold mine near Gatooma, south of Salisbury, police said.

The attackers objected to an independence party being thrown for the mine's 16 black workers by its white owner, a police spokesman said.

Independence has brought Zimbabwe a flood of foreign aid offers in addition to a \$150 million aid package already announced by Britain, Nigeria, Sweden and West Germany offered aid totalling a further \$54 million, a government spokesman said.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Kline has just returned from a visit to Kabul, Afghanistan. Posing as a tourist, he was one of the few American journalists to enter the Afghanistan capital since U.S. reporters were banned in January. This article first appeared in the *Christian Science Monitor* on April 15.

KABUL — The Afghan capital is comparatively quiet today nearly two months after its citizens rose up in open rebellion against the Soviet takeover.

But it is the quiet of a city bristling and seething under foreign occupation. The population, as seen by this reporter, is bitter and sullen. The rule of the Moscow-imposed regime of President Babrak Karmal appears only tenuously stable.

Soviet troops now have largely removed themselves to barracks and other behind-the-scenes positions. But there can be little doubt that Moscow's military might is the real power in Kabul.

A Soviet tank, for instance, had taken up a position not 50 metres from the hotel's front entrance. Sound trucks constantly cruise the streets exhorting the masses to "defend the gains of the revolution." Yet the famed rooftop protests continue during the darkness of the Kabul night, showing the disdain with which many regard the so-called revolution.

Afghan Government tanks and armed personnel carriers guard literally all major intersections and public buildings. And

Tito's condition 'exceptionally grave'

BELGRADE, April 21 (Agencies) — Doctors treating President Tito announced today that his life was in imminent danger.

After the most pessimistic medical bulletin since the 87-year-old Yugoslav leader went into hospital in January, officials said it seemed clear he could not hold out for much longer.

The bulletin stated: "The general state of health of President of the Republic Josip Broz Tito is exceptionally grave. The continuing bleeding, considerable damage to the liver accompanied by strong jaundice, the pneumonia, high temperature and heart weakness are endangering the life of the comrade president. The kidney function has not been re-established. Intensive treatment continues."

The officials said that despite President Tito's tenacity since the amputation of his left leg on Jan. 20, the seriousness of his condition was reflected in the reference to weakness of his heart. This had not been mentioned in medical bulletins since early March.

Soon after the bulletin, the state radio switched to serious, although not solemn, music. Broad-

casting authorities have standing instructions on showing various degrees of seriousness in the presentation of programmes in the light of the president's health.

Since the president fell critically ill on Feb. 10, his functions have been taken over by two collective leadership bodies. The two groupings, the nine-man collective state presidency and 24-member Communist Party presidency, seem to have worked smoothly in the transition to what already amounts to a post-Tito era.

The medical bulletins issued from the clinical centre at Ljubljana, where President Tito has been hospitalised for 101 days, are widely suspected to be at least one day old. Because of this, his death appeared to be even more imminent than the bulletins indicated.

Since the end of last month, Yugoslavs have been celebrating his official birthday May 25 with the traditional "stafeta relay" round the country. The stafeta, a gold-plated baton, is taken into each province by a group of youths, destined for eventual delivery to the president himself. The relay team is due to reach Ljubljana this Friday.

India police teargas protesters

NEW DELHI, April 21 (AP) — Police burst tear gas shells and swung clubs to disperse demonstrators today in the troubled north-eastern state of Assam and Indian news agencies reported that dozens of persons were injured in the outbreak of violence.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) said that the police action in Gauhati city, about 400 kilometres north-east of Calcutta, followed a refusal by the protesters to disperse.

The demonstrators had squatted before a police cordon after local authorities refused to permit them to march on an oil

installation and asked them to disperse.

It was the latest incident in a six-month-long agitation spearheaded by students in the oil and tea producing state, where Assamese are demanding the deportation of millions of alleged aliens. PTI said that the police action lasted about 30 minutes.

Thousands have been arrested since the state government cracked down last Saturday on the powerful protest movement which has shut down the local economy and paralysed the state administration.

Yesterday, hundreds of villagers were teargassed as they were en route to Gauhati to participate in similar demonstrations. Forty persons were injured when they tried to break through police cordons barring their entry into the city. The agitators were pushed back.

At least 3,300 persons have been arrested since the government adopted tough measures last weekend, but many of them have been freed. Those still detained include some student leaders and local politicians who were supporting the anti-alien agitation.

Yesterday, Indian army troops backed by the paramilitary central reserve police, ended a 115-day blockade of the main oil pipeline terminal at Narangi, located near Gauhati. Thousands of pickets were arrested but later freed.

Assam's oil installations and refineries have been among the main targets of the movement since the state produces nearly half of the India's total oil production of 15 million metric tons.

Oil deliveries from the region continue to be disrupted because oil workers are staying away from work to protest the arrests. An indefinite curfew was ordered in Narangi and witnesses said the area was cordoned off by barbed wire.

The movement is aimed against the settlers from neighbouring Bangladesh, whom the Assamese fear will swamp their state economically and culturally. The Bangladeshis are mostly Muslims while the Assamese are predominantly Hindu.

Thousands of S. African students boycott classes

JOHANNESBURG, April 21 (R) — Thousands of coloured (mixed race) students in Johannesburg and Cape Town boycotted classes today as protests against "inferior" education increased.

In the Cape Town area, where the boycott began last week, education authorities said about 60 schools were affected.

Demands for improved education spread to Johannesburg at the end of last week and today police said about 4,000 coloured students demonstrated peacefully in townships around Johannesburg.

Divisional commissioner of police for Soweto, Brigadier Kobus Mann, said the demon-

strations began early today when about 200 students gathered outside Kipton high school near Soweto, the black township which was the scene of violent rioting over a similar issue in 1976.

He said their numbers later swelled to about 1,000 and they marched to a coloured secondary school in Eldorado Park where pupils joined the demonstration.

Brigadier Mann said students from other schools had joined in and by mid-morning about 4,000 were gathered outside the school in Eldorado Park.

About 25,000 students took part in the Cape Town boycott last week and teaching sources said the figure could rise to about 60,000. Their main complaint is against the standard of education which they say is inferior to that for white children.

The government opposition spokesman on coloured affairs, Mr. Colin Eglon, said in a newspaper interview published yesterday that a "powder-keg" situation was developing.

Mr. Eglon said he saw in the protests and stayaways "the shadow of Soweto before June 1976."

"It is as if the government learned nothing from the lives that were lost and the damage that was done four years ago."

In those demonstrations and classroom boycotts, police reacted with force, using guns and teargas, setting in motion six months of bloody confrontation in which schools and other buildings were burned down. This time police have played a low key role.

Afghan capital 'bristling, seething' under occupation

By David Kline

Soviet-piloted helicopter gunships — the dreaded "flying tanks" that have claimed so many lives in both the capital and the provinces — soar over the city almost hourly, reminding everyone that resistance will be dealt with swiftly and without mercy.

Public opinion

It is not always easy to gauge public opinion here, for the citizens of Kabul are not exactly forthcoming in their political views these days, especially to strangers. But despite the rumours (and apparently real) efficiency of the secret police, I soon discovered the key that unlocked many closed mouths:

"American astum" (I'm an American) stated clearly and often was usually enough to start a lively conversation with an Afghan, notwithstanding the occasional glance over the shoulder to see if anyone suspicious was listening.

And it is not that Afghans love the United States. Indeed, they distrust the motives of all big powers. Rather, "American astum" shows that the stranger is not a Russian, and almost no one cooperates with Russians in Kabul.

In fact, it is often quite dangerous to be mistaken for a Soviet citizen. Both Afghans and some of the few Westerners still living in Kabul warned me to stay away from the old bazaar and certain other areas of the city. Soviets have been assassinated lately, as have a few Westerners mistaken

for Russians.

Still, public sentiment towards the Soviets and their regime soon becomes obvious:

"We hate the Russians, but what can we do?" lamented one civil servant in a restaurant near the Ministry of Planning one day. "Why doesn't the world help us?"

Indeed, to most Afghans — whether they be guerrilla fighters in the countryside or residents of the cities — the international response to Moscow's takeover seems ineffectual. Humanitarian considerations aside, some people make a point of saying it is in other countries' own interests to help Afghanistan resist the Kremlin.

Determined opposition

For most people, however, global considerations figure little in their determined opposition to the Russian presence. Rather, theirs is a hostility born of friends and loved ones killed or sent to the infamous Pul-i-Charki prison; an antagonism born out of the legendary Afghan love of independence and from the calamitous disruptions that foreign invasions invariably bring.

A textile merchant on Kabul's famous Chicken Street — a centre of trade with foreign importers — complained, for instance, that the Soviet invasion last December had badly damaged his business.

"You are the only American I have seen in two months," he said. "Business now is finished, because no one can come here anymore."

In fact, during the half day I spent talking to shop owners on

Chicken Street, I did not see a single foreigner. Most shops were empty. The multimillion-dollar tourist and export business has reportedly collapsed.

Another sign of the depth of public feeling against the Soviet-backed government was shown, interestingly enough, as I was temporarily arrested at Kabul airport on my way out of the capital (officials confiscated my film).

Two airport workers took me aside and asked whether jobs and political asylum could be found in the United States.

"I don't want to live like this ... Afghanistan is finished," whispered one.

It was startling how many times people said they "didn't want to live anymore," or some phrase to that effect. But what at first seemed like the words of a dispirited people were later explained as proof that Afghans feel they have nothing left to live for but to fight the invaders to the death.

An example: several people recounted one of the tactics used by protesters during the anti-Soviet insurrection in the capital last February. Apparently, men would walk up to government machine-gun emplacements and dare the Afghan.

"When one man would fall, another would take his place," described one participant in the fighting. They did this until the soldiers were so ashamed they ran away.

Incredible? Perhaps, but even one government supporter confirmed these same events.

World News Briefs

ROME, April 21 (R) — Italy's Chamber of Deputies yesterday gave final approval to Prime Minister Francesco Cossiga's new government of Christian Democrats, Socialists and Republicans. Christian Democratic premier's centre-left government took a hurdle towards legality by winning a parliamentary vote of confidence by 335 to 271 votes. The Communists, Italy's second-largest party, voted against the Cossiga administration in line with its pledge to oppose any government that does not include them. The new government is the first in six years to enjoy a clear parliamentary majority. Mr. Cossiga's second government in less than a year has full power to tackle the country's major problems including political violence, a 22 per cent inflation rate and more than a million people out of work.

MADRID, April 21 (AP) — A second group of 42 Cuban refugees from the Peruvian embassy in Havana flew into Madrid today. "They took away everything from us and wouldn't take anything out of Cuba," the refugees said that at the H airport, before boarding the plane, some lost all objects of value carried. "The women," a refugee said, "were even stripped of earrings by Cuban authorities." A first group of 53 Cuban refugees arrived in Madrid three days ago, and the remaining, of a total Spain agreed to accept, were due in Madrid next Thursday.

LONDON, April 21 (AP) — Mr. Mark Phillips, husband of Elizabeth's daughter Princess Anne, will not be prosecuted on allegations that he was cruel to a horse, justice officials declared. Britain's chief prosecutor decided that evidence in the case "wholly insufficient to justify criminal proceedings." Mr. Phillips' reaction was not immediately known, but the woman who brought the complaint against him said of the ruling: "I acted according to conscience and I would do the same thing again." The woman, Jean Pyke, claimed she saw Mr. Phillips kick his horse "wayman" three times when it refused to go into its stall during equestrian meet last month. Photographs were published in a British press showing Mr. Phillips lifting his leg towards the horse. Mr. Phillips, a former army captain and Olympic-calibre equestrian, had hotly denied the allegations, calling them "ridiculous."

NEW DELHI, April 21 (R) — About 20,000 children were married in mass ceremonies in the west Indian desert state of Rajasthan. Times of India newspaper reported yesterday. Child marriage is banned in India, but the old custom persists, particularly in Marwar area, where the mass marriages take place each year auspicious day known as Akha Teej. On that day, which this year celebrated last Thursday, Hindus are permitted to perform marriages without the supervision of a holy man, who is paid a function, and poor people can save money.

BANGKOK, April 21 (R) — The Vietnamese-backed reg Phnom Penh said yesterday that Thailand did not have to give official recognition before starting talks on the repatriation of puehcan refugees in Thailand. The official news agency SPK's commentary, which accused Thailand and other countries of the refugees as a political weapon, that the lack of diplomatic relations between them was no obstacle to talks on repatriation. For a positive response from Thailand to Phnom Penh's call for last February. Official Thai Government sources said at the Bangkok suspected the proposal was designed to bring reg SPK said: "The People's Revolutionary Council (the government) does not make recognition a pre-condition to talks." same time, it accused Thailand of following a plan created by and Washington to keep several hundred thousand refugees on the Thai border and some 150,000 inside the country "in and sickness."

Honduras Liberals claim election win

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras, April 21 (R) — Liberal Party leaders claimed victory over their right-wing National Party rivals today after first results in the Honduras general elections.

The vote marks the Central American country's return to civilian rule from eight years of military control.

Mr. Jose Ascona, chief spokesman for the centrist Liberal Party, predicted that it would win 38 out of 71 seats in the new constituent assembly.

The assembly is to draw up a new constitution and prepare for the nomination of a civilian president to take over from the military, who eight years ago ousted the winners of the last general election.

Yesterday's election has

acquired special importance in the light of the political upheavals affecting Honduras' Central American neighbours El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua.

The National Party had been widely expected to take a majority of the assembly seats because of its support from the military and its domination of local government.

With a third of the votes counted by the early hours of the morning, the Liberal Party led by Mr. Roberto Suazo Cordova had taken 57 per cent, compared with 35 per cent for the National Party.

But National Party leaders were hoping that results from the sparsely populated rural areas of the country would swing the election back in their favour.

The only other party to contest the election, marred by accusa-

tions of fraud, was the Reform and Unity Party, which gained a few per cent of the vote. An estimated 75 per cent of Honduras' 1.2 million voters turned out for the election, despite calls to abstain from parties barred from participation.

Both the military and General Policarpo Paz and the main party leader they believed healthy leading to civilian rule. The country's been of avoiding being drawn into spiral of political violence. Mr. Ascona, whose Party earlier accused the Party of electoral rigging preliminary results were against fraud, against isment money."

Afghan emblem, flag to unite symbols of Islam, Marxism

MOSCOW, April 21 (R) — Afghanistan's new leaders have compromised between Islam and Marxism in the design of the state emblem by uniting Muslim symbols with a red star.

The design of the new emblem was included in the "basic principles" — in effect a temporary constitution — recently approved by the ruling People's Democratic Party (PDP). TASS news agency reported yesterday.

According to TASS, the state emblem would show two features of Muslim mosques — the pulpit and the "mihrab" niche that guides worshippers in the direction of Mecca — on a green background. There would also be a red five-pointed star between ears of wheat.

The national flag, which used to be all red with the PDP symbol in one corner, would now be red, black and green in equal horizontal stripes, TASS said.

Controversy has raged in Kabul over the design of the flag since the government announced on Jan. 18 — three weeks after it was installed in power — that it would radically alter it. The red banner alienated many Muslims who equated it with godless communism. The new flag and emblem incorporate green, the traditional colour of Islam, and have dropped the party symbol.

On April 2, President Babrak Karmal announced the country would have two flags — the red banner representing the party and the red, black and green flag representing the state. The move seems to reflect a compromise between hard-line Marxists and more pragmatic elements in the party.

Though the "basic principles" ousted the party from public view on the flag and emblem, they enshrined it as the "leading and guiding force in society," TASS said. The same phrase is found in the Soviet Union's 1977 constitution.

Under the new principles, the Revolutionary Council would remain the highest body of state authority until a parliament could be elected. Its first task would be to adopt the full constitution, TASS said.

Afghanistan has not had a constitution since the April 1978 coup which established Marxist rule in Kabul.

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